



The Shield

January 2019 edition

Praying for the Canadian Military Community



Join us throughout the month of January
as we reflect upon and pray for the following:

CANADA

We should be thankful for the diversity of our nation. We have created an environment in this country that invites all people to join us. We present our self as a nation where people have opportunities to pursue their passions while living somewhat comfortably. We can also be grateful that Canada allows its citizens to go to places of worship and give praise to the God, the Lord of all creation. However not all call Jesus Lord but thankfully Canada is still being a place where individuals can make a difference. As you enter 2019, pray that you can be the change or improvement that your neighbourhood or community needs.

Consider using this prayer for Canada:

“Father, You are our Lord. You allow governments to rule lands and people to pursue their own life choices. You bless us regardless of whether this country acknowledges you or not, but You do seek more from us. We want all to see You as their Lord and love You with all their heart, soul, mind and strength. We want Canada to be a place of worship and know that it will only happen if the Church seeks unity and a willingness to love others above self. We know that You alone are our salvation, and so we come before you and ask to be used by you to be the change Canada needs. Amen”

LEADERS

Leadership is not easy especially when the mission to be completed is difficult, and possibly dangerous. Our military leaders need to lead from a position of wisdom and authority and need strength and courage to do what is expected of them. We pray they find Jesus to be their source of strength and their morale compass so that they can lead and serve our country in a manner that honours them and those they serve.

Consider offering these verses from Psalm 144:1-2 as your prayer for leaders you may know.

Insert their name in the area marked NAME:

“Praise be to the LORD my Rock, who trains NAME’s hands for war, NAME’s fingers for battle. He is NAME’s loving God and NAME’s fortress, NAME’s stronghold and NAME’s deliverer, NAME’s shield, in whom NAME takes refuge, who subdues peoples under NAME”

OPERATIONS

Our military presence is needed around the world. We offer security, safety and aide to many. To do so we need men and women who willingly put their own health and safety at risk to serve others. They do not join the military expecting to be hurt or killed. They trust in the training, equipment and support of their brothers and sisters in arms and go into service confident that they will survive. However military service is inherently dangerous and so we can add to their protection by praying for them, especially remember those deployed on operations.

Consider using this prayer as you pray for our military serving away from their homes:

“Lord, we are grateful for those willing to put themselves in harm’s way for the sake of others. We ask that you protect our serving men and women from anything that may harm their bodies and their soul. As they reflect on the work they do, or think about family left behind, make your presence known to them. Open their hearts and mind to know that you care for them while they care for others. Let them experience your presence such that it causes them to ask who you are. Amen”.

CHAPLAINS

We should be grateful that in our secular society, we still have the privilege of having men and women of God, our Chaplains, serve alongside our military. Our Chaplains are not on an easy mission, but it is one ordained by God who has invited them to take care of His sheep. Cover them with your prayers so that God's will is done through them.

Consider praying:

"Wonderful Lord, we ask you to keep your hand to be over our Chaplains as they go about the mission of being the gospel to our serving men and women and their families. Give them peace of heart, soul and mind as they venture into the wolf's den to gather your sheep to you. Bless their families who stand by them and friends who support them. It is in the power and authority of Jesus' name that we call on your grace for our chaplains. Amen"

MILITARY FAMILIES

There is no denying that military families are crucial to the mission of the military. They experience prolonged absences because of training and deployment but remain loyal to their serving spouse and therefore loyal to the military. Their sacrifice is immeasurable because we cannot truly know what these families experience or feel because of having a serving member amongst them. We do know it is not an easy life for families as the demands of service affects marriages and family harmony. We are grateful for the men, women and children who stay behind while the service members go to serve others. We must pray for our military families, but we must also find a way to give back to them.

Consider praying:

"Abba God, we know the family is a relationship ordained by you as the initial place where love can be experienced and shared. We know life can be difficult at times and the absence of a spouse or parent can weaken the bonds of a family. We also know that military life can put strains on relationships and so we pray asking you to protect our families from these possibilities. We pray that our families can find fellowship with others who can help them remain strong during times of absences. Father, we also pray that you help us find a way we can help our military families. Amen"

THE MCF

We should be happy that our fellowship realizes they we are on God's mission to bring the gospel to our serving and retired military community and their families. The task is challenging as there never seems to be enough resources and the roads travelled are often bumpy and full of twists and turns. The MCF feels those bumps and bruises from their journey but soldiers on. Thankful the MCF members are faithful and know that if they continue to trust in God and do what is expected of them, He will make it all happen. As we begin a new year, pray for the leaders and members of the MCF, that they may continue to pursue God's mission with love, compassion and faith.

Consider praying:

"Jesus, you told us to be your disciples we must be willing to take up our cross and follow you. We know we are not worthy to bring your truth to our military brothers and sisters, but because you give us your support and strength we can participate in your harvest. Will you bless the efforts of those associated with the MCF and continue to be their guide on the journey you have invited them on? Help them be focused on you by allowing them to experience your presence daily. Amen"

